

I am writing to you because of a matter of grave concern involving a large media company.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Because I am a firm believer in freedom of the press, I welcome diverse perspectives and opinions, and I feel that this is contrary to what the media should strive for. This documentary is at best a negative campaign ad dressed up as a feature film.

Please do not mistake my objection as partisanship, as I would be equally upset if a media conglomerate forced their affiliates to interrupt regularly scheduled programming to air "Fahrenheit 9/11." To me, this is a clear abuse of the public trust.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.